

Open Access: Background and Tools for Early Career Researchers in Social Sciences

Workshop prepared for the Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences

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<https://github.com/jolyphil/oa-workshop>

Acknowledgements

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Figure 1: Logo of the Fellowship “Freies Wissen”. Source: Wikimedia Deutschland (2018). License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

Overview

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- Structure

- ① What is wrong with the subscription-based publication system?
- ② What is open access publishing?
- ③ *Discussion*
- ④ What is the share of open access publications and what is their impact?
- ⑤ Which license should you choose?
- ⑥ How to find funding for your open access publication?
- ⑦ *Practical examples*
- ⑧ *Q&A*

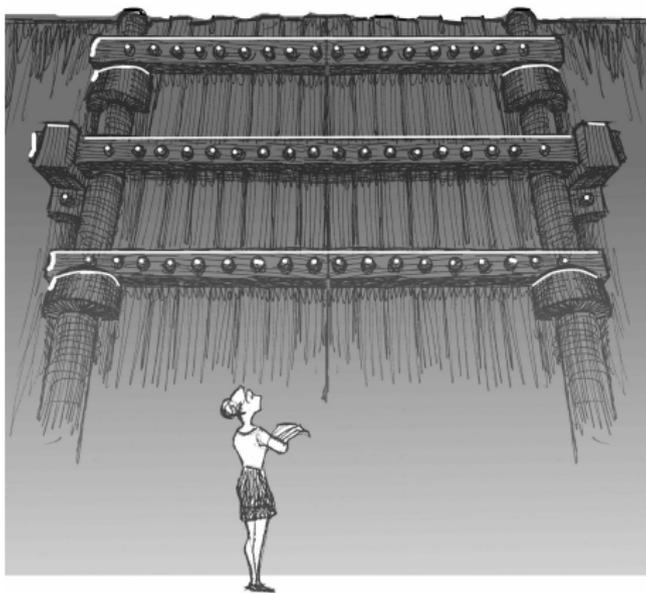


Figure 2: Scientific information is locked behind paywalls. Source: John R. McKiernan from the Why Open Research? (n.d.) project. License: CC BY 4.0.

What is wrong with the subscription-based system?

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 - ④ Commercial publishers secure their hold on **“A” journals** (Buranyi, 2017).

The digital turn and the consolidation of the Big Five

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- This led to the consolidation of the “**Big Five:**”
 - 1 Elsevier
 - 2 Wiley-Blackwell
 - 3 Springer
 - 4 Taylor & Francis
 - 5 Sage

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- The Big Five now publish **50%** of all scientific papers each year (Larivière et al., 2015).

The Big Five in social sciences and humanities

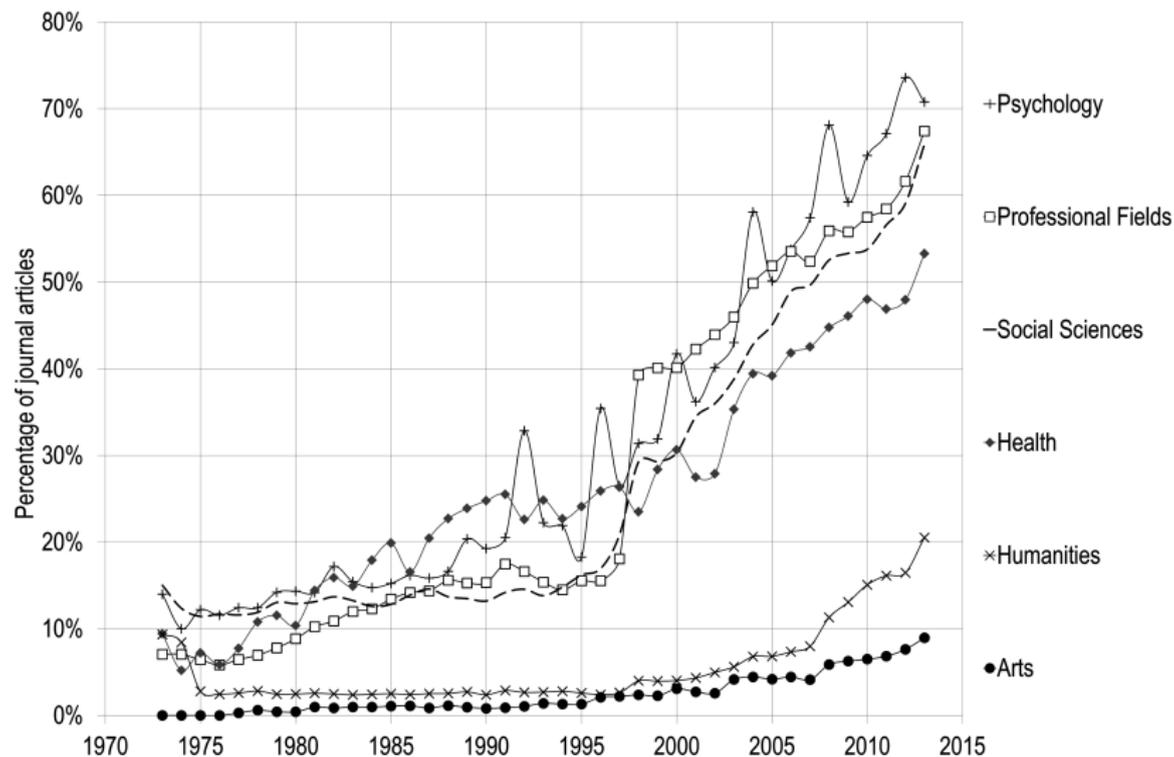


Figure 3: Percentage of papers published by the five major publishers, by discipline of social sciences and humanities. Source: Larivière et al. (2015). License: CC BY 4.0.

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- Publishers have tremendous power over the access to knowledge.
- Publishers are big enough to impose their conditions (e.g. Elsevier: **25%** of the entire scientific literature).

An extremely lucrative business

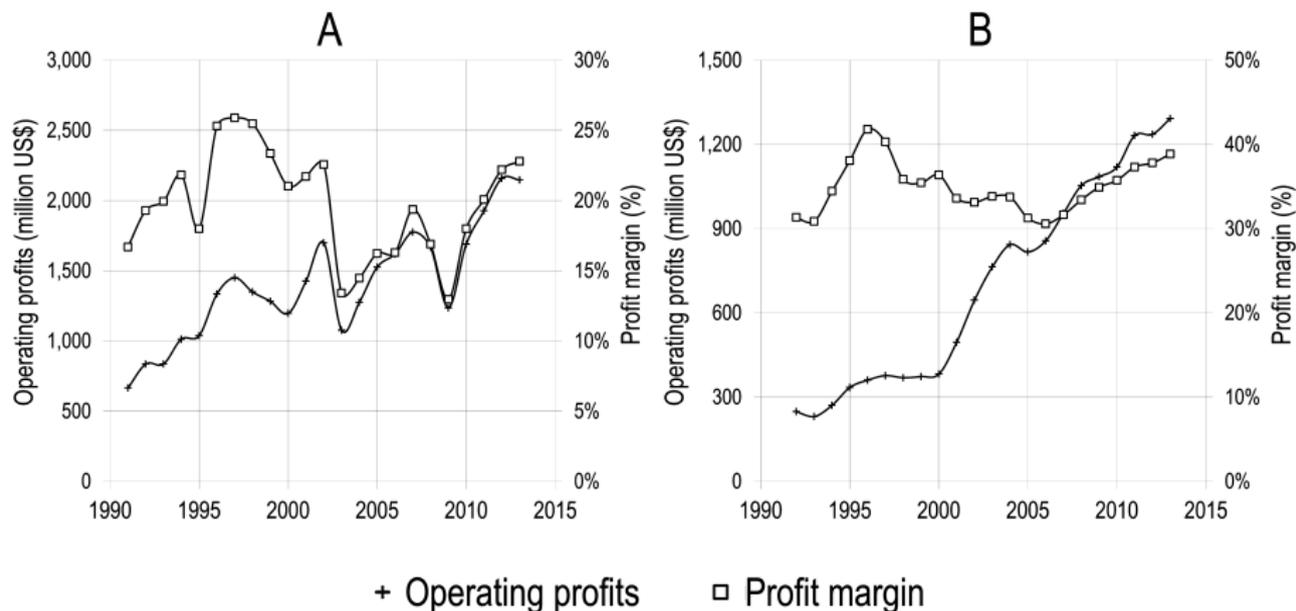


Figure 4: Operating profits (million USD) and profit margin of Reed-Elsevier as a whole (A) and of its Scientific, Technical & Medical division (B), 1991-2013. Source: Larivière et al. (2015). License: CC BY 4.0.

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- The public and institutions with less funding (especially in low- and middle-income countries) are kept in the dark.



What is open access publishing?

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- Ideally, users should also have the right to:
 - ▶ “... read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.” (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2017)

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- APCs range from a few hundreds to 5000 EUR (for social sciences: typically 400-1000 EUR).
 - ▶ Palgrave Communications (1000 EUR)
 - ▶ Politics and Governance (900 EUR, partnership schemes available)
 - ▶ Sage Open (APC: 395 USD)
 - ▶ Open Library of the Humanities (free)
 - ▶ PARtecipazione e CONflitto (free)
 - ▶ Journal of World-Systems Research (free)

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- Danger: **“double-dipping”**

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- Researcher self-archive their papers on online repositories.

Green OA: preprints, postprints, and published versions

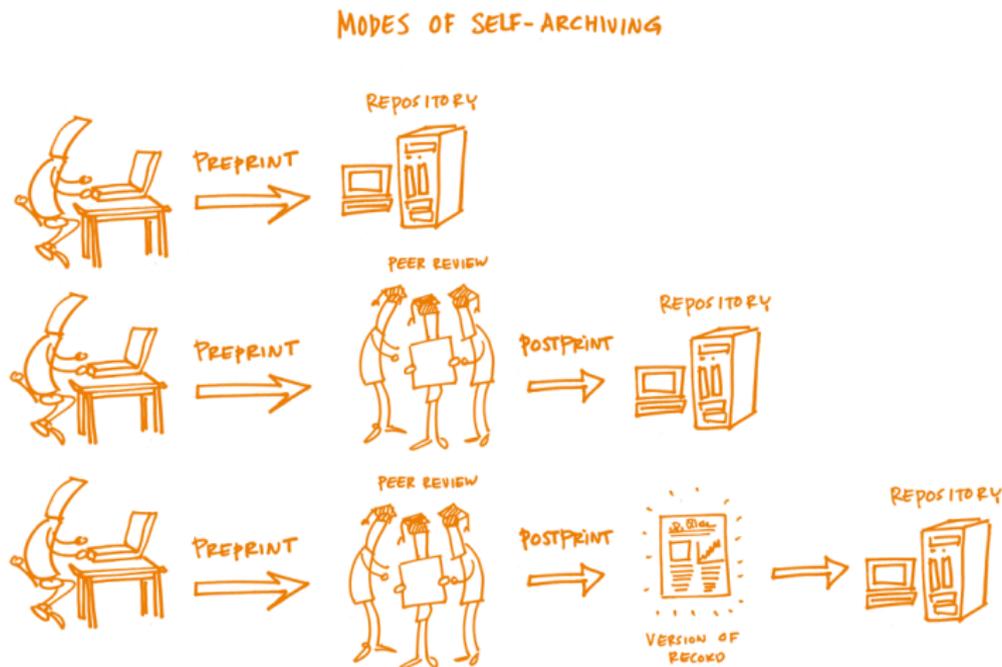


Figure 5: Modes of self-archiving. Source: Bezjak et al. (2018). License: CC0 1.0.

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Green OA: green, blue, yellow, and white journals

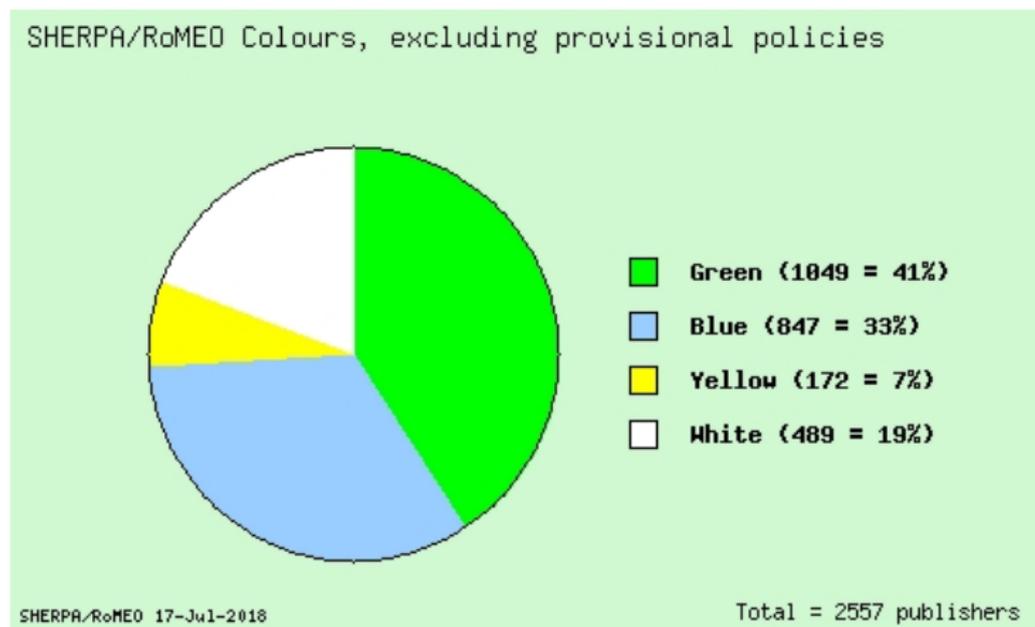


Figure 6: Share of green, blue, yellow, and white journals in the SHERPA RoMEO database. Source: SHERPA RoMEO (2018). License: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 UK.

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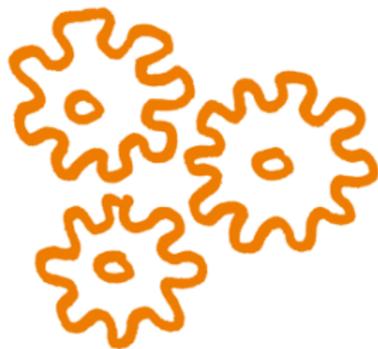
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Small group discussion: pros and cons

Participants join small groups and discuss what are the advantages and disadvantages of different models of OA publishing: green, gold, and hybrid.

We regroup in plenary to share our main conclusions.

What is the share of open access publications in the scientific literature and what is their impact?

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 - ④ Universities are canceling subscriptions and looking to OA as an alternative (Piwowar et al., 2018).
- Best evidence of the growth of OA: Study by Piwowar et al. (2018).

The prevalence of OA

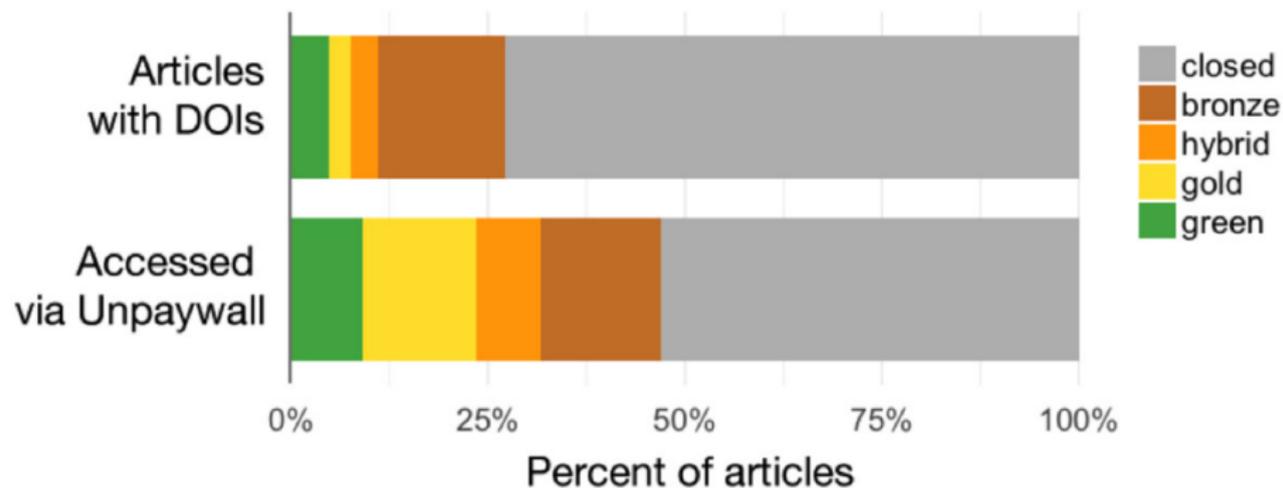


Figure 7: Percent of articles by OA status, Crossref-DOIs sample vs Unpaywall-DOIs sample.
Source: Piwowar et al. (2018). License: CC BY 4.0.

Growth over time

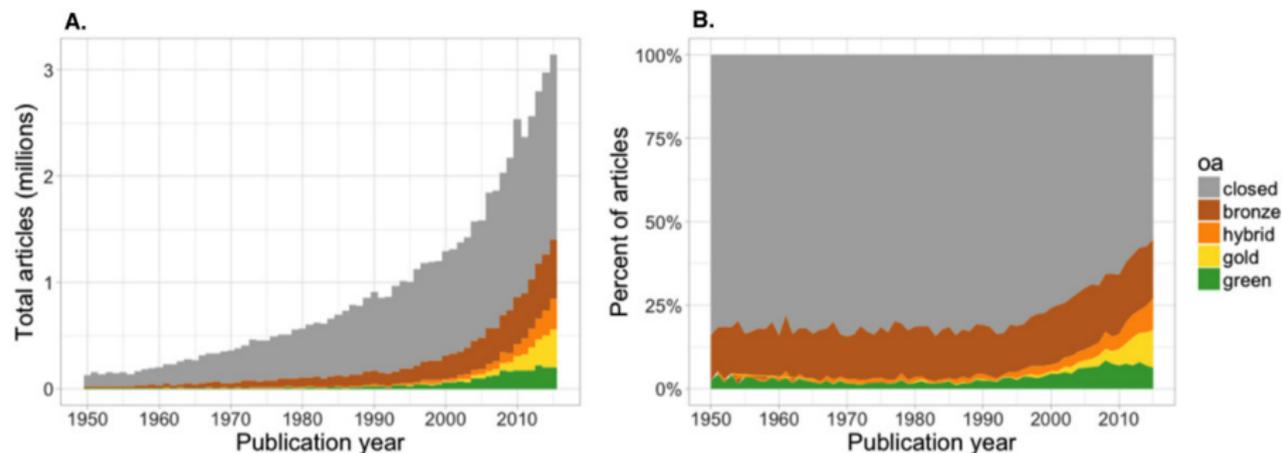


Figure 8: Number of articles (A) and proportion of articles (B) with OA copies, estimated based on a random sample of 100,000 articles with Crossref DOIs. Source: Piwowar et al. (2018). License: CC BY 4.0.

Prevalence of OA by discipline

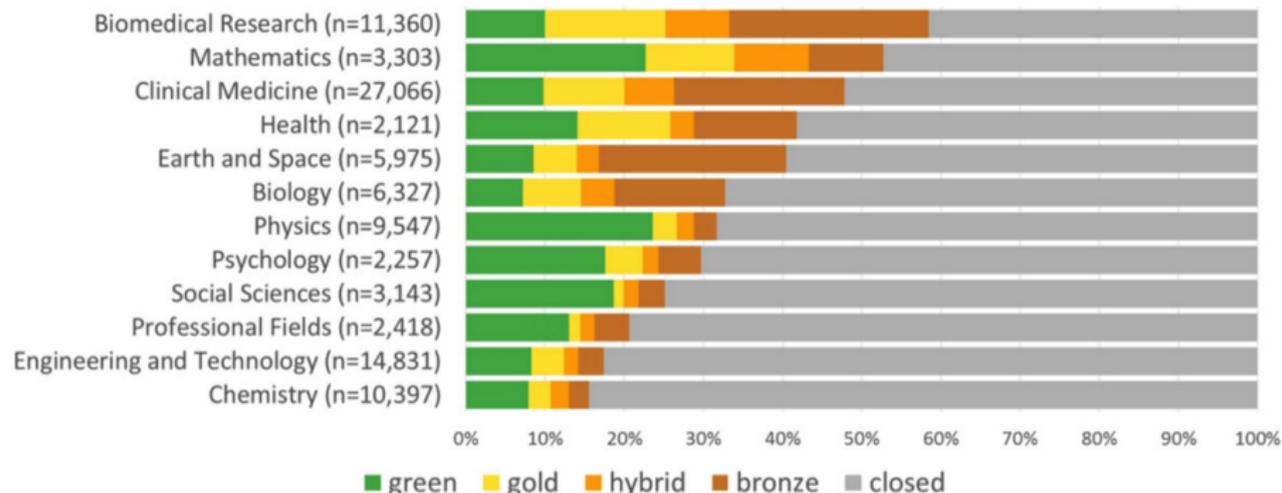


Figure 9: Percentage of different access types of a random sample of WoS articles and reviews with a DOI published between 2009 and 2015 per NSF discipline (excluding Arts and Humanities). Source: Piwowar et al. (2018). License: CC BY 4.0.

The impact of OA publications

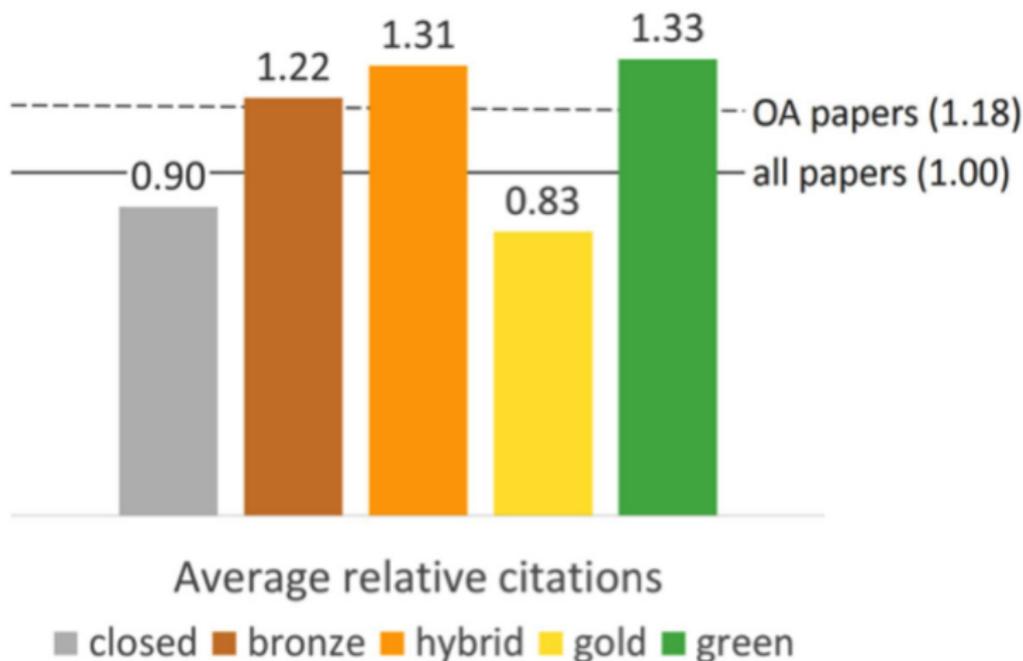


Figure 10: Average relative citations of different access types of a random sample of WoS articles and reviews with a DOI published between 2009 and 2015.). License: CC BY 4.0.

Which license should you choose?

The Creative Commons Licenses

- Creative Commons are the default option.

The Creative Commons Licenses

- Creative Commons are the default option.
- All CC licenses help authors **retain their copyright** while allowing others to make use of their work under certain conditions.



Figure 11: CC-BY. Source: Creative Commons (2018) License: CC BY 4.0.

- The **least restrictive** of all CC licenses.



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- CC-BY has become the **gold standard** in OA publishing as it maximizes the dissemination of research findings (Kreutzer, 2014; Redhead, 2012).

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A spectrum of restrictions

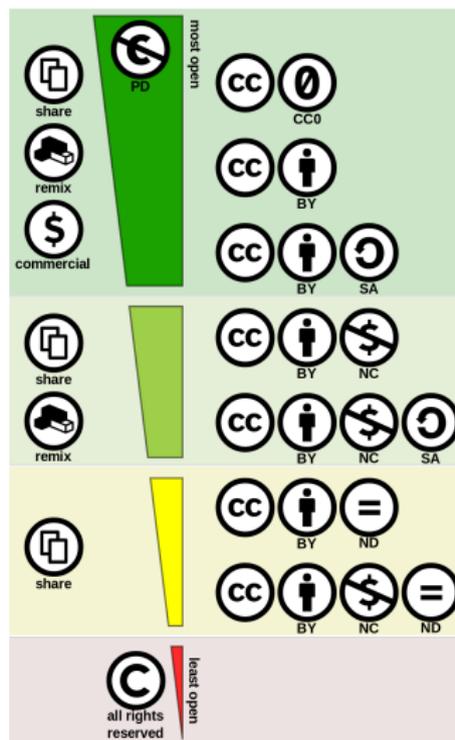


Figure 12: CC license spectrum between public domain (top) and all rights reserved (bottom).
Source: Shaddim and Creative Commons (original CC license symbols) (2016) License: CC BY 4.0.

How to find funding for your open access publication?

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 - ① If you are in a project, look if your funder has an OA publication fund.

Funding options

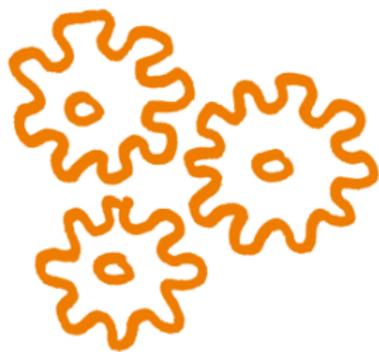
- Do you need to pay APCs?
 - ▶ 70% of OA journals are free.
 - ▶ Have you thought about self-archiving (green OA)?
- If you need to pay APCs
 - 1 If you are in a project, look if your funder has an OA publication fund.
 - 2 Look if your university, faculty, or department has an OA publication fund.

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 - ③ Ask your supervisor if there is internal funding available.
 - ④ Look if you are admissible for a waiver (lower income countries).



Practical examples

Find a self-archiving policy on SHERPA RoMEO

- Question 1

- ▶ Go to <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo>
- ▶ Look for the self-archiving policy of the *European Sociological Review*
- ▶ Which color code was given to the journal and what rights does it grant authors?

- Question 2

- ▶ Go to <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo>
- ▶ Look for the self-archiving policy of the *European Journal of Political Research*
- ▶ Which color code was given to the journal and what rights does it grant authors?

Find a gold OA journal on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

- Question 3

- ▶ Go to <https://doaj.org>
- ▶ Click “Search” in the top menu
- ▶ Look for:
 - ★ **journals**
 - ★ with **Social Sciences** as subject
 - ★ with **no APCs**
 - ★ with a **CC-BY** license
 - ★ where the full text is in **English**
 - ★ and peer review is **double-blind**
- ▶ How many journals can you find?

Look for a preprint on SocArXiv

- Question 4

- ▶ Go to <http://socarxiv.org>
- ▶ Search a paper on “Protest in Eastern Germany”, last edited in July 2018.
- ▶ Click on the title
- ▶ Scroll down the preprint page and click on “Visit project”
- ▶ What additional components are made available by the author?

Thank you!

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